



American Sign Language/English Interpretation: Interview Requirements

Application Review Process

Applications are reviewed in the order they are received. Applications meeting the criteria of the program prerequisites and successfully completing the interview will be offered a seat in a program section, if available. Accordingly, early preparation and submission is recommended. If your interview is not successful, deficiencies will be noted and you will be given the opportunity to address them and re-submit your application, as time permits.

Interview and Skills Assessment

Students currently enrolled in the ASL Studies program at NSCC will be exempt from the ASL assessment, conditional upon successful completion of the ASL Studies Certificate.

After a completed application has been received and determined to be qualified by NSCC Admissions, applicants will be invited to an interview and skills assessment with AEIP Faculty. ASL and English skills will be assessed. Assessments for both languages are designed to determine the level of competence and include receptive and expressive elements.

Applicants will be asked to bring the following documents to the interview:

1. Resume

Your resume should outline previous work experience and education. Emphasize skills and experiences that relate to language, cross-cultural experiences, and all second language learning whether ASL or other languages.

2. Reference Letters

You are required to submit two letters of reference to support your application. Examples of people you might approach for such a letter include a member of the Deaf community, a professional interpreter, a personal reference that can speak to your commitment and abilities, or an educator or instructor. Letters should be from individuals who have firsthand experience of your past achievements and commitment to learning. All letters should include a contact number and/or e-mail address. Any Deaf person wishing to record their reference in ASL is welcome to do so. Video references should be no longer than 5 minutes in length.

You will complete a basic translation exercise working from ASL to English and English to ASL in order to assess basic translation ability and English skills. Applicants will be given ample time to view and consider a written English passage and then, using notes, produce a videotaped translation into ASL. Likewise, a recorded sample of ASL will be viewed multiple times and a written English translation will be produced. Both translations will be assessed for accuracy, language use and organization.

In addition, applicants will meet with AEIP teaching faculty for an interview to assess their knowledge of Deaf culture and the field of interpreting, and knowledge of self and the world in general.

Additional Information

As an interpreter, you are the crucial link between two very different worlds. You take a message from English, in a hearing-world context and change it to American Sign Language (ASL) and place it in a Deaf-cultural context, without changing or influencing the meaning. And you do the same in reverse. Both worlds depend on you in order to understand each other. Applicants to the AEIP are carefully screened to ensure they have the personal and language skills needed to succeed.

In addition to advanced ASL, some other typical qualities that describe successful students are:

- Strong English skills
- Mature
- Comfortable working with people different from self
- Not too shy
- Able to grasp new ideas quickly
- Generally flexible and able to deal with stressful situations and in good physical, mental and emotional health.